

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

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DESCRIPTION OF A NEW *NEOTOMA* FROM MEXICO.

BY OUTRAM BANGS.

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The collection of mammals made in Mexico by Mr. S. N. Rhoads and his wife, in the winter and spring of 1899, was purchased soon afterwards by my brother and myself, and is now in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, at Cambridge, Mass. When identifying the species, a year or two ago, I was much puzzled by a *Neotoma* from Texolo, Vera Cruz, that I could not place with any described form, and showed it to Mr. E. W. Nelson, who at once declared it a species he had never taken or even seen, and suggested I send it to Dr. Merriam for comparison with the series in the Biological Survey Collection. This I accordingly did, and Dr. Merriam has most kindly compared it for me with all known forms to which it might be related, and pronounces it a very distinct species, with, apparently, no near ally among the known members of the genus. This new *Neotoma*, of which Mr. Rhoads took five examples, all at the same place, may be known as:

*Neotoma distincta* sp. nov.

*Type* from Texolo, Vera Cruz, Mexico. Old adult ♂ No. 9819, Bangs Collection. (Collection Museum of Comparative Zoology.) Collected March 8, 1899, by S. N. Rhoads.

*Characters.*—A very distinct species, with a wholly black tail as in *N. tenuicauda*, but much larger than that animal, and differing from it markedly in skull characters; much like *N. fulviventer* in color, except the tail, which is bicolor in that species, but rather darker; much larger than *N. fulviventer* and with a much larger and more massive skull; rostrum and nasals longer; rostrum more swollen over roots of incisors; ant-orbital fossa correspondingly more pronounced; zygomata more spreading posteriorly (in *N. fulviventer* the sides are parallel); superciliary ridges more elevated and more pinched in over orbits; incisors and molars much larger and heavier.

*Color.*—General color of upperparts mummy brown, the back much darkened by the thick sprinkling of brownish-black tipped hairs; sides paler, more russet; sides of nose and upper lips dull grayish brown; chin, upper throat and narrow belly stripe dull gray; a wide pectoral collar, ochraceous-buff; lower middle belly and ventral region yellowish white; feet and hands dull grayish brown; toes and fingers white; ears rather small, nearly naked, dusky; tail unicolor, black; whiskers mixed black and colorless.

#### Measurements.

No.		Sex	Total length	Tail vert.	Hind foot	Ear
9819	Type	♂ old ad.	417	206	41	23
9818	Topotype	♂ old ad.	370	165	41	23
9821	Topotype	♂ old ad.	395	185	40	26
9820	Topotype	♀ ad.	377	190	40	20
9822	Topotype	♂ young ad.	370	165	41	23

Skull, old adult ♂, type: basal length, 43; occipito-nasal length, 48; zygomatic width, 25; mastoid width, 19.4; interorbital width, 5.2; length of nasals, 19; width of nasals, 5.6; length of palate to palatal notch, 22.2; length of palatal slits, 10.6; length of upper molar series, 9.4; length of single half of mandible, 29.6.